

The Work of the Committee

—IN THE—

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

—OF—

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Compiled by REV. F. E. CLARK,

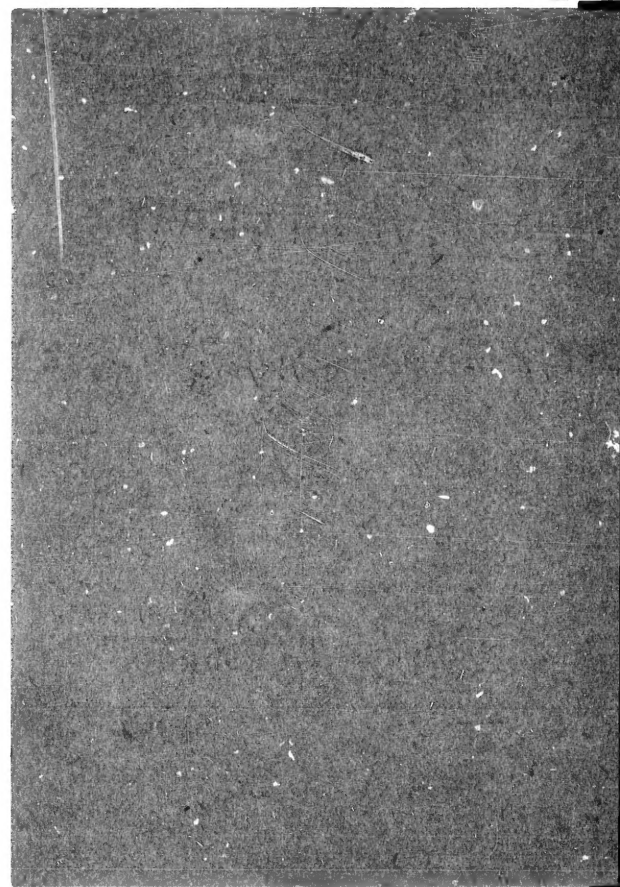
President of the United Society of Christian Endeavor.

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PUBLISHED BY

The United Society of Christian Endeavor,
NO. 24 BROADFIELD STREET, BOSTON.

1897.



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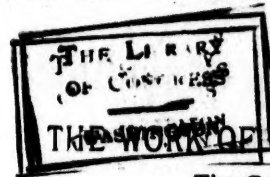
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THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEES.

The Committees.

Many requests have come from societies all over the country requesting information concerning the work of the various committees. This little manual is prepared for the sake of answering such inquiries in brief and succinct form. Minute details obviously can not be given in this brief compass, and each society must be left in some degree to work out its own problems and adapt its committees to local needs. The methods of work for the various committees have in every case been contributed by practical workers, who have given special attention to the subject.

How Many Committees to Have.

There are three committees which seem indispensable to every well-organized Society of Christian Endeavor. These are the Lookout, the Prayer-meeting and the Social Committees. The fundamental principles of the society seem to make these three necessary. As to the others, local needs must determine. A good rule seems to be to have just as many committees as can be set at work and can find something to do. It is, of course, foolish to multiply committees simply for the sake of adding to the list, but the more the better, if all are faithful and active. The leading idea of the society is to find some *definite* work for each member; this is accomplished largely by the committees, hence the importance of having *just as many as can work efficiently*.

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while the first one named is considered the chairman, unless the committee prefer to choose its own chairman. Young ladies as well as young gentlemen, find a place on the committees, and a young lady is quite as likely to be the chairman, and to prove an efficient one. The younger members of the society should not be forgotten in making up the committees, but one or two of them should usually find a place on each, in order that they may learn to work.

The committees are usually changed every six months, and while one or two of the former members may be retained for the sake of efficiency, as many new ones as possible should be brought into service. It will be readily seen that with nine or ten committees even a large society can easily be kept busy, and busy, too, in definite, specific, and efficient service for the Master.

The officers and committees should be selected by a nominating committee who should present the names to the society for election.

Two Dangers to be Avoided.

In the election of officers and committees there are two dangers to be guarded against; first, a disposition to shirk the duties and responsibilities which the officers and committees impose; and secondly, a disposition to feel agrieved if one is not chosen to office. Any such spirit is manifestly unworthy of a member of the Society of Christian Endeavor; but unsanctified human nature crops out even in the best of Christians occasionally, and it is well to guard against possible dangers.

For this purpose the following resolution is incorporated in the by-laws of some societies under the section relating to the

Election of Officers.

It is read on the occasion of every semi-annual election:—

While membership on the board of officers or committees of this society should be distributed as evenly as the best good of the society will warrant among the different members, the offices should not be considered places of honor to be striven for, but simply opportunities for increased usefulness, and any ill-feeling or jealousy springing from this cause, shall be deemed unworthy a members of the Society of Christian Endeavor. When, however, a member has been fairly elected, it is expected that he will consider his office a sacred trust, to be conscientiously accepted, and never to be declined except for most urgent and valid reasons. The above clause of the by-laws may be read before each semi-annual election of officers.

Reports of Committees.

Another important matter is the monthly report of the committees. Each committee should *report in writing* to the society once every month. This is a great stimulus to faithfulness. The report may be short, the month may have been comparatively barren of work, but it is none the less important that the report should be given. These reports should be placed on file by the Secretary, that they may be referred to in the future whenever desired.

Thus a continuous history of the society in all its branches of work is preserved, which in future years will be of great interest and profit.

The following are the Committees and their duties as defined by the Model Constitution and By-Laws.

LOOKOUT COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to bring new members into the Society, to introduce them to the work, and to the other members, and to affectionately look after and reclaim any that seem indifferent to their duties. This Committee shall also, by personal investigation, sat

isfy itself of the fitness of young persons to become members of this Society, and shall propose their names at least one week before their election to membership.

PRAYER-MEETING COMMITTEE.

This Committee shall have in charge the prayer-meeting; shall see that a topic is assigned and a leader appointed for every meeting, and shall do what it can to secure faithfulness to the prayer-meeting pledge.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to promote the social interests of the Society, by welcoming strangers to the meetings and by providing for the mutual acquaintance of the members by occasional sociables, for which any appropriate entertainment, of which the Church approves, may be provided.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

This Committee shall consist of the Pastor of the church, the Officers of the Society and the chairmen of the various committees. All matters of business requiring debate shall be brought before this committee, and by them reported either favorably or adversely to the Society. All discussion of proposed measures shall take place before this committee and not before the Society. Recommendations concerning the finances of the Society shall also originate with this committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to endeavor to bring into the Sunday-school those who do not attend elsewhere, and to co-operate with the Superintendent and officers of the school, in any ways which they may suggest for the benefit of the Sunday-school.

CALLING COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to have a special care for those among the young people who do not feel at home in the church, to call on them, and to remind others where calls should be made.

MUSIC COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide for the singing at the Young People's meeting, and also to turn the musical ability of the Society to account, when necessary, at public religious meetings.

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide for an occasional Missionary Meeting, to interest the members of the Society in all ways in missionary topics, and to aid in any manner which may seem practicable, the cause of home and foreign missions.

FLOWER COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide flowers for the pulpit and to distribute them to the sick at the close of the Sabbath services.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to do what may be deemed best to promote temperance principles and sentiment among the members of the Society.

RELIEF COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to do what it can to cheer and aid if possible and necessary by material comforts the sick and destitute among the young people of the church and Sunday-school.

WHITE CROSS COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to do what it can to disseminate among the young men principles of social purity, and to advance in every way the White Cross movement.

Each Committee except the Executive, shall make a report in writing to the Society at the monthly business meeting, concerning the work of the past month.

The Lookout Committee

BY REV. F. E. CLARK.

No committee is of more importance than the Lookout Committee. It is of great importance that its duties be fully understood and faithfully discharged. The success or failure of the society may depend largely upon the faithfulness or unfaithfulness of this committee.

It should be composed of kindly and warm-hearted Christians as well as faithful ones for its duties are sometimes delicate and while they are faithfully discharged should also be discharged in an affectionate and courteous spirit.

This committee has been called "the outside conscience" of the Society. I like the word "monitor" better in this connection, however, and a most useful and helpful monitor it may be. One great mission of the Lookout Committee is to see that proper persons join the society. Great care should be taken that all the active members understand what they are doing when they join the society; that they really believe themselves to be Christians and that they are willing intelligently to take the vows of service and confession.

Every active member should have carefully read the Constitution before he signs his name to it, and it is the duty of the Lookout Committee to explain it, if not fully understood, and to tell just what the prayer-meeting pledge requires. Then at the monthly consecration meeting this committee usually proposes the names of the new members and sees that they are voted on by the society at the next meeting. Then after the members have joined, it is the duty of this committee as its name indicates to "look out" for every member, active and associate, that the work may be strengthened, the timid en-

couraged, and the wayward and wandering ones reclaimed.

The Consecration meeting is a most important one for this committee. During this meeting every member of it should be especially alert to find who are faithful and who are unfaithful to their vows. The calling of the roll is necessary to enable this committee to do its duty intelligently. A single absence from this meeting should be noticed and the delinquent one followed up if no excuse is sent. It will prevent future absence and will frequently save the absent one to the Society and to the work. If one is wilfully absent from three consecutive Consecration meetings then his name should be dropped from the roll by the Lookout Committee and in a quiet way, and at the proper time, the fact should be announced to the society. If a kindly and brotherly spirit is manifested, no ill-feeling will be generated. In fact this is the manifest duty of the committee and no person and no committee can be blamed for doing its duty. Mr. F. K. Adams in writing on this subject wisely says;—

The character and surroundings of the individual members of the society will give food for thought for all your spare hours. Let us, then, limit ourselves to just one illustration in the practical application of our theory. It is meeting night. You note the absence of a boy—an active member—no excuse is sent. But shall we take notice of just one failure? Generally speaking, yes, especially with active members; but it can usually be done so that he will not realize that you are doing committee work. Your previous thinking will help you here. From your knowledge of him, who is most likely to reach and influence him, to help and not hinder him? Go outside of the committee for help, if necessary; anyway, to help him. A word may do for him, *now*, what no power can do a month hence. A hand-shake may be all that is needed. A real *heart* interest is the main thing. No iron rules can be laid down to reach such cases. The means are as varied as the individuals.

In a word, then, we may say; the duty of the Lookout

Committee is to keep the Society active, by seeing that its active membership list is composed of true and faithful members. This it does by great care in introducing new members to the Society, by faithful and affectionate oversight of those who do belong, especially the younger and less experienced ones and by enforcing the rules relating to dismission that keep the membership pure and active. No higher or more delicate work can be entrusted to any committee; no committee has a greater privilege or greater responsibility; no committee, perhaps, can so much help the church and pastor and no faithful committee need fail or bungle in its work if it constantly and humbly seeks Divine guidance.

The Prayer-Meeting Committee.

BY REV. JAMES L. HILL.

I. It is the duty of the Prayer-meeting committee to select leaders for the service. In many societies the choice is made alternately from among young gentlemen and then from among young ladies. It is a very pretty way where a young lady presides, for her to place a sheet of note-paper in her Bible of the same size with it, and having read the Scriptural sentiment proceed immediately to read what this suggests to her. It is common for ladies to bow their heads down to the desk before them and ask, in a word of prayer, for God's blessing on the service. It is a good way for one to regard a prayer as consisting of sentences, and hence for one person to begin the prayer and advance only two or three sentences, and, without concluding, allow another to take it up. Thus, sometimes, a prayer will last five or six minutes, and will be participated in by some twenty or thirty persons. Some of these timid believers will thus have opened their mouths in supplication. By this method a suggestion is made as to *when* to pray. The time is set by the leader. One may continue but a little way. It is repressive if any one person continues long. More of meaning and supplication, more than one would first think possible, can be packed into a few short sentences.

II. It is the duty of the Prayer-meeting committee to provide, and it may announce and print the subjects, topics, questions or themes for the service. The uniform topics are prepared with great care and will doubtless meet the needs of most societies fully as well as those which are chosen by the committee. They have the advantage of being studied by tens of thousands of Christian Endeavor workers, they can be obtained of the United

Society more cheaply than they can be printed in small quantities, and they are expounded every week most carefully in the Golden Rule, the national representative of the societies.

III. It is the duty of the Prayer-meeting committee to see that you have a good meeting. To this end arrange with one or two ladies to start familiar hymns *im-promptu*. It is a duty to see that individuals are ready to take up the service as the leader concludes, so that it will not lose momentum. A meeting depends very largely on the first five or ten minutes after the leader stops. The meeting then is yours, and not his. "Throw the responsibility of the meeting upon the attendants, and keep it there." Ask persons not to conclude a speech with a prayer, but to make two different contributions. The habit of beginning promptly, and particularly of ending promptly, stimulates early participation. A person ought to be spoken to if he develops the vicious habit of flatly contradicting the position assumed by the previous speaker. It is usually best for a participant not to attempt to justify his position if it is foolishly disputed. "In a devotional meeting one should, if possible, speak in furtherance of the thought of the last speaker." The Prayer-meeting committee should presume that it is the duty of every attendant to participate; indeed, that the inherent conviction of a child of God is, that he ought to confess with his lips. It is doubted if any young man, rightly trained by our modern methods, who has a deep experience of the Spirit of God, ever is satisfied with himself unless he has spoken for Christ. It is proper for the Prayer-meeting committee to act as ushers, in a modest way, and to see that the company is seated well forward, so as to give room to late comers. Scatter em-

bers of fire, and they will go out. If any one has the evil habit of scolding about persons who are not present, show him the futility of the habit. The servant of the Lord must be gentle. It may be well to reveal to some persons their practice of always saying the same thing. Reports of specific answers to prayer and brief accounts of revivals are always stimulating. To avail the meeting of the religious bearings of events on which everyone is reflecting, like the New Year, Thanksgiving, fruit-bearing, fading as a leaf, etc., requires ingenuity, but is a timely and practicable method which is often effective. There is, however, no expedient that will take the place of spiritual life. What most prayer-meetings need is a *revival of religion*. It is a devotional meeting. If the meeting has no warmth *pray—keep praying—get others to praying—PRAY!*

The Work of the Social Committee.

By FRANK A. ARNOLD.

The first duty of this committee lies in the mutual acquaintance of the members. No Society can do efficient work without this at the beginning. There must be that feeling of unity among the members themselves, before anything can be done toward reaching those outside. There must be that feeling that they are bound together by a common bond, and that they, as a society, have one aim, one purpose, the saving of souls. Then moving on as it were, with one mind and one body, they carry with them an influence and power for good well-nigh irresistible.

A society bound together in this manner begins at once to reach out for new members, and in their treatment is an important duty of the Social Committee. Let the stranger, as soon as he enters the church, be made to feel at home,—to feel that those whom he sees are interested in his welfare. Let a member of this committee meet such an one at the door with a smile of welcome, and a hearty hand-shake. At some time, either before or at the close of the meeting, let a few moments of social intercourse be provided for, at which time those who are strangers can make the acquaintance of some, if only a few, of the earnest workers. A little time spent in this manner will be found wonderfully helpful to all. Too often is it the case that as soon as the final hymn is sung, there seems to be a common desire to get outside the church as soon as possible, leaving strangers or new members with but scanty, if any, greeting.

If there was this feeling of fellowship and desire to help others filling the heart of each member, would they not love to linger at the close of the service, meeting each

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other freely and cordially,—telling one, perhaps, of the help his or her words had been to them; speaking a word of encouragement to one of the younger members who had spoken for the first time; meeting the stranger with the expressed desire to see his face often in the meetings; and so on, dropping a helping word here and another there, costing nothing, and yet doing an infinite amount of good to those around them.

I fear in many societies too little is made of the welcome which should always be held out, and, although it may be in the *hearts* of the members, the stranger sees nothing more of it expressed, than, perhaps, an appropriate motto hung over the door of the prayer-meeting room.

In the providing of sociables, entertainments, and the like, a larger field is opened to the Social Committee, and upon them to a large extent depends their success or failure. At such times they are the Committee of Arrangements, the Committee on Entertainment, the Reception Committee, etc., and any one who has served on this committee, knows the amount of work involved in preparing for a gathering of this kind. At such times self should be forgotten, and the main thought be the enjoyment of others.

At the beginning the restraint and stiffness which almost invariably attends such gatherings, should be broken up,—and by a little planning and tact, on the part of the committee, the party can be divided in groups and knots of four or five.

The new member attending his first sociable, and who feels like a stranger in a strange land, can be introduced into one of these groups, and almost before he realizes it, he finds he is talking and enjoying himself, in the society

of those, who but a moment before were comparative strangers. The duties of the Social Committee, at these gatherings are, of course, varied according to the nature of the entertainment provided, but, whatever it may be, they should be first and foremost in all that pertains to its success. They should be willing to perform some of the less pleasant duties, if need be, and all the while be quietly planning for the ease and enjoyment of those present.

Let a Social Committee prepare itself for these gatherings, as it would for the performance of any other duty, and enter upon the work with the determination to do all in its power for the pleasure of others, and the success of the social is assured from the start.

Through it all let us not forget that the work of the Social Committee is but a means to an end,—the end sought for by all true Christian Endeavor work,—that of souls, consecrated wholly to the Master's service. It is like the minor notes of the musical instrument, light in themselves, yet blending softly with the heavier and lending a perfect harmony to the whole.

In closing, I would leave with Social Committees these few suggestions:—

1. Be sure the members of your society are mutually acquainted.
2. Do not neglect the stranger or the new member, but let him have your first attention.
3. Be prepared to sacrifice self if need be, and make the happiness of others your pleasure.
4. Keep ever fresh in your mind as a guide to your actions the thought that it is the Master's work in which you are engaged, and He who can look into the heart and see the motives which govern our actions, will not

leave unrewarded even the cup of cold water, if it be given in His name.

The Christian Literature Committee.

Some societies have found great advantage in having a Christian Literature Committee for disseminating good papers and magazines among those who cannot otherwise have religious reading. We think that this committee might be introduced into many of our societies. Many families have almost no good reading from one year's end to the other. In many, only the trashiest of papers are seen: Why not counteract evil with good. In some cases it may be well to send old papers which have already been used. Usually, however, it is better, as far as possible, to send the papers direct from the newspaper offices. They will be more appreciated and more likely to be read. A few dollars will supply a good many families with good reading for a year.

The Work of the Sunday School Committee.

BY REV. F. E. CLARK.

BRING IN NEW SCHOLARS.

The most obvious way in which the Sunday School Committee can be useful is in increasing the size of the school. In almost every community there are hundreds of young people who ought to be in the Sunday school who are not there. Here is a wide field for you to work in. Do not attempt to get into *your* school those who properly belong somewhere else. No good ever came of proselyting from other churches or Sunday schools. Proselyte from the world all you choose, from the ranks of the indifferent and thoughtless. No matter how many you bring from the highways and hedges, and from that crowd of boys and young men which is so busily engaged in holding up the lamp-post on the street corner on warm Sunday afternoons.

There are some cards provided, as you will see on another page, for the Sunday School Committee, to be used as invitation cards. Follow up these cards with a word of personal invitation, and repeat it more than once, even if you are rebuffed the first time, and sooner or later you will increase your school.

SET OTHERS AT WORK.

It is not enough that your committee alone should do this work; though you might be never so busy, you five could not do all that ought to be done; but if you can get all the school to help you, or even half of it, there is scarcely any limit to your work. Persuade just as many as you can to promise to bring in at least one new scholar within the next quarter. If each one brought only one more in the course of a whole year, it requires a very

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easy problem in arithmetic to show that the school would be doubled in a twelve-month. If you want a thing well done, get others to do it. *See that it is done*, but get others to do part of the work; thus they will be blessed as well as yourselves.

FILL UP THE VACANT CLASSES.

In almost every school, especially at the beginning of the school year, there are apt to be vacancies in many of the classes. The scholars, for one reason or another have dropped out. They need a little kindly looking after. You are just the ones to do it. Perhaps the teacher is busy and thinks he cannot visit his scholars or perhaps he is lazy and will not, (though I do not believe that is true in many schools; then when you have had a talk with him and the superintendent about it, take the names and addresses of all the absent scholars, divide them up among your committee, make a social call upon them, find out why they have stayed away, and bring them back if you can. Four chances out of five, they only need a little friendly attention to induce them to renew their loyalty to the school.

CO-OPERATE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT.

But these are only a few of the ways in which you can help your superintendent. At anniversaries and Sunday school concerts and harvest festivals and all such occasions, you can be very helpful to him. Ask him, once in a while, what he would like to have you do; or if there is not some new work he can put into your hands. Perhaps he would like to have you find a list of persons who would be willing to take classes if required, and from this he can choose those best adapted to the positions he wishes to fill. If I had time I would like to tell you how one Sunday School Committee of which I know has helped

the superintendent as well as the whole school and church ; but, if I should tell you where they worked, you would think I was partial to that society, and I have no doubt there are many hundreds of committees doing just as good a work. After all specific directions, here is a pretty good rule for the Sunday School Committee, as well as for every other. Keep your eyes open, be wide awake, consult those wiser than yourselves, and, when you see anything that you can do, do it.

The following card has been used, with good effect, by many Sunday School Committees. It may be printed as elaborately and expensively as any committee may choose, or it may be supplied at very low rates. The United Society will furnish it, neatly but plainly printed on paper, for thirty cents a hundred.

..... *SUNDAY SCHOOL.*

Being desirous of increasing our Sunday School, and not finding your name among its members, we most cordially invite you to become a member, trusting that you will find much enjoyment in attending, and knowing that your attendance will assist us in promoting the success of the school.

*In behalf of the S. S. Committee,
Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.*

The Calling Committee.

BY REV. F. E. CLARK.

This committee can make itself exceedingly useful, especially in a church located in a growing community, or where the population is changing. Its work is largely to look after strangers, and to introduce them to others. It is sometimes called the "Strangers' Committee." In no way can the ice of strangeness so well be broken as by a friendly call. If the young person feels that enough interest is taken in him to lead two, three, four, or five of the young people in the church which he attends to call on him, he will be very sure to take an interest in them, and in the church which they represent. He will be pretty certain to be found at the next young people's meeting, and the interest already aroused may be increased, his circle of acquaintanceship widened, until, almost insensibly, he becomes one of the helpful and earnest workers in the church. This committee should be on the outlook for strange faces. When a family moves into the community, let them find out if there are not some young people in it who would like to attend their church, and let all the other members of the society be very particular to inform them of cases needing attention which have come to their ears.

But there are others beside strangers who can be greatly helped by the Calling Committee. In every church there are certain ones, who, through bashfulness or false modesty, have kept too much in the background. They have gone on, year after year, perhaps, thinking that they weren't wanted or welcome among the young people, and that they had no place among the others. More and more they become shy, self-centered, and reserved. Let the Calling Committee pay especial attention to such persons.

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A little friendly interest shown in them is all that they need, oftentimes, to transform them into earnest, working Christians.

At the social gatherings, this committee can be of great assistance to the Social Committee in introducing those they have previously become acquainted with to the other members, and taking particular pains to see that there are no neglected wall-flowers. Another class of young people whom the Calling Committee should especially remember is the sick. The tedious hours of illness or convalescence may be much relieved and shortened by a friendly call; and it is long before such kindly attentions are forgotten. It is not a social affair simply, it is a Christian service, and, through such efforts many a soul may be won for Christ.

The Work of the Music Committee.

By Miss ELLA E. SEVERANCE.

In many societies the field of this committee is supposed to be entirely outside of the society and that the efforts of the committee should be directed usually toward the Sunday *evening* service. Sometimes it is a well-trained chorus that is provided; sometimes, a skilled soloist or cornet accompanist.

As a result, there are fewer empty seats; and the heart of the pastor is *encouraged*. All this work for the church is most laudable and much to be encouraged, and every true pastor will tell the Music Committee of many services it can render the church. But one object here is to tell how the committee may be of most use to the society.

In the meetings of the society itself the work of the Music Committee is much needed; and it is there that systematic work counts for the most.

If any doubt this statement, let its truth be tested by cultivating, in the meetings of the society, the habit of spontaneous song,—introducing into the *musical* work similar plans to those already employed in the devotional work; choosing, in the same manner, leaders, and those who shall stand pledged to aid them, by the judicious use of song. Then don't wait till some awful pause occurs, in which to say, "Please sing No. 74." Rather let song come as a response to the spirit of the meeting. Let it be a continuation,—a re-rendering of the thought expressed. Perhaps a young man rises in the meeting for the first time, and confesses his need of God's help. How perceptibly the thought is emphasized if some clear voice responds,

"I Need Thee Every Hour, Most Gracious Lord;"

and one by one the strain is taken up by others! Or a

young woman speaks with trembling voice of her love and gratitude for the providence that has guided all her ways, the thought can be at once voiced in song:

"Do not I love Thee, O my God! Behold my heart, *and see!*"

There would be at least *one* desirable result obtained by adopting the plan I have sketched,—*that singing*, which is intended merely to kill time, would be at once and forever done away with. And *if* this spirit of responsive song *should* run over into the church-meeting, its influence would be more effective than that of the most elaborate and the most skilfully arranged of musical services.

This mode of work is not, I confess, very striking, or even very original. Don't, on that account, let it be altogether rejected. At least, try it. Try it.

The Work of the Missionary Committee.

By ADA R. HARTSHORN.

The question is often asked, "How can we interest our members in Missions and how can we make them *want* to come to the Missionary meetings as much as to any of the others." In the brief space allotted to this subject, only a few suggestions can be offered. Give just as many a part in the meeting as possible. Some can read a selection here who find it hard to say a word of their own. This is a good time for such to learn to use their voices, when they do not feel special responsibility for the selection made. Give information as well as entertainment at these meetings, but put the information in an interesting form. Have a good, bright missionary story read. Sometimes have a question-box started at one meeting, the answers to be given at the next. Let the Missionary Committee talk up the meeting with the members as they meet from time to time. If they know of any who make it a practice to stay away when the Missionary evening comes, send them notes of invitation; give just those some thing to do. If they have a part, they cannot help but feel some interest in that one meeting at least. Use all the legitimate ways you can think of to draw the young people of the church to these meetings.

Perhaps I cannot do better than to give a brief account of a Christian Endeavor Missionary meeting I once attended. The subject was China. After the opening exercises some one asked, "What route do we take in going from Boston to China?" From the opposite side of the room came the answer. Then followed in rapid succession, as if the persons had just thought to ask, a dozen or more questions, such as "How large is China? Have the people strange customs? What is their home life? Are

they a religious people? What has the Christian World done for China? When did China first hear of Christ?" These questions and answers had been prepared by the Committee and given out beforehand. It took time, but it paid. A set of Chinese pictures was shown, illustrating the manner and customs of the Chinese. A very entertaining letter from a lady Missionary in Foochow, was read that told of the formation and growth of a Christian Endeavor Society there. A quartette rendered two beautiful songs, and one young lady sang a solo. The meeting ended with the reading of a story called, "The Other Girl's Work." It *was* an interesting meeting and I am sure no one could have gone away thinking otherwise.

As the company lingered for a talk after the meeting, one of the Committee was heard to say to another, "Now what shall we do for our next meeting; it comes in five weeks, you know?"

It is good and profitable to have these interesting meetings, but this is only a small part of the duty of this Committee, as set before them in the Constitution. They are not only to hold Missionary meetings, but they are to "aid in any manner which may seem practicable the cause of Home and Foreign Missions." Just how are they to do this? The answer seems to be, through the Missionary Work of the Church. Are the churches doing all they can in the way of Missionary Work? And are the Christian Endeavor Societies doing *their* part in the Missionary Work of their own churches? Is there a Mission Circle in *your* church? If there is one, is it in a flourishing condition? Is the Christian Endeavor Society helping it in all the ways that it can? How many members of the Society are members of the Circle? Do all the Missionary Committee belong to it? If not, here

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is just the chance for this Committee to work. Join the Circle and give it your enthusiastic support. Do not try to engineer it, for it is probably well organized already, but do all you can to induce those in the Society who are not already members to join it with you. If there is no Mission Circle in your church, start one. Do not let it be said that there is a Christian Endeavor Society satisfied with its work, while there is no Mission Circle in their church. Do not try to make the Endeavor Society into a Mission Circle, for that Society has work to do in many directions, but form one from any young people in the congregation, whether in the Society or not, and take this as part of the work that the Society gives you to do for the church.

Fruit and Flower Committees.

BY REV. JAMES L. HILL.

The work of this committee has been singularly blessed of God. Its labors are peculiarly appropriate to young people. Indeed when older persons have flowers to bestow younger people are sought to carry them to their destination. There are usually sick persons in every parish that ought to be visited every week. Young persons can aid the pastor. No speeches need to be made. What good Christian people want, when in ill-health, is an expression of sympathy and of remembrance. If one crosses the threshold bearing flowers his visit needs no other explanation. When strangers are visited they have some long hours before them in which to think of the kindness of the church. "I should like to see the pastor of those kind young people," said a man in mortal illness. This ransomed soul has been accounted a trophy of the work of the Flower Committee. One well-known society supplies each patient in the city hospital once a week with a few flowers. The Committee does its work on Monday afternoon, receiving each week a list of all the sick persons in the parish and neighborhood from the pastor. The writer has dropped the list from his study window scores of times with a heart-felt "God bless you" to the young persons who are aiding to bear "the burden of all the people." In a church that he serve as collection is taken in the Sunday morning congregation for the decoration of the audience room. The young people have the care of the expenditure. Sometimes societies make a moderate appropriation. The great work of the committee is to act as medium between those who will give flowers and potted plants and those who ought to receive them. Decorating the church and sub-

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singularly blessing appropriate to young people. Young people need to be made. Young people in ill-health, is a blessing. If one visit needs no more visited they have to think of the pastor to see the pastor in mortal illness. One well-known hospital once a week a list of all the neighborhood from the study of his study felt "God blessing to bear the church that he serve as a young congregation. The young people. Sometimes a great deal of the great deal of the church and sub-

sequently distributing the flowers is the work of this committee reduced to its lowest terms. A committee however, ought to see how much it can do, not how little. Its work can be easily amplified, for example, at Christmastide. In the autumn, in the summer, some plates of fruit can often be secured for those in ill-health. If the committee has a little fund a few oranges can be carried to the sick children of the Sabbath School, particularly among the poor. Many prosperous housekeepers will gladly bestow delicacies if it is shown that Christ is suffering in the person of His poor. One lady that we know cultivates a pansy bed to which the committee has every week in summer unquestioned access. The United Society can supply, at trifling cost, a very pretty gilt and beveled-edged, perforated card to attach to the bouquet, saying in pretty print, "with the kind wishes of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor."

We want to make our young people flower-loving. We want all who wear our badge to be tender and compassionate, and to be trained to be mindful of the unfortunate. We believe that there are members of our societies who are to hear from Divine lips, "I was sick and ye visited me." "Inasmuch as ye do it unto the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me."

The Work of the Temperance Committee.

By JOHN M. S. LEACH.

The practical work of the Temperance Committee should be very simple. We should hold temperance meetings at stated times, perhaps quarterly; as the consecration meeting comes monthly, and as the missionary meeting is quarterly, perhaps it would not be best to have them oftener than that. The Temperance Committee should give special notice of the meeting. Call very special attention to the fact that we want a temperance meeting, so that the young people may come prepared, that every prayer may be one for temperance, every selection read, every recitation be directly bearing upon the one subject under discussion.

Before the temperance meeting, the committee should consult together as to special means to make the meeting interesting and profitable; should be themselves prepared to bring before the people facts concerning the cause; not old, threadbare facts that have been repeated a hundred times, but news fresh from the field, interesting and encouraging instruction. If the meeting be not wholly arranged for in all its details, I would especially recommend that the temperance committee be so well prepared and informed that they be able to take up the subject during any pauses that may occur; in short, that they consider themselves in a measure responsible for the interest of the temperance meeting. This study and thought on the part of the committee will not only add to the interest of the meeting, but, by interesting the committee themselves, better prepare them for temperance work. There is, I think, some difference of opinion as to this question of passing the pledge, some leaving that to be done by the regular temperance organization. This may

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depend, in a measure, upon circumstances, and may generally be left to the judgement of the temperance committee. As a rule, however, it may be recommended, for it is a well-known fact that hundreds of youths have been reached through the Endeavor Society when all other Christian means failed. But let us not suppose our interest in the cause of temperance to end in our society, nor that we are only to strive to defend our own members. It may seem a new thought to some that we are to reach out after those already in the bonds of iniquity; but how often has it been the case that one that has been lost and found again will do more good than ninety-and-nine that never went astray. Things often seem impossible to us just because they are uncommon; but we must remember that we cannot convert anybody; that this is supernatural, and God only can perform the work; but that He can perform it through you or me just as well as by anybody in the world, if we are only faithful.

Now, with all our preparation, we are never to forget to pray for the cause we have at heart. By prayer and study all are to be prepared for any form of Christian temperance work, and seek in that work not our own pleasure, nor the praise of men, but in humble reliance upon God seek His glory; then shall God give us power among the young to lead them far from the haunts of error. Nor should we be discouraged, for God will not use a discouraged man or woman. To human eyes the vastness of the evil gives the field a discouraging look, but we have no right to measure God's work with anything but God's measures, and we may thank God that we live in this great gathering place of the nations, in the day of battle for right or wrong, and we must never lose sight

of the fact that the conflict is God's, its issues are in His hands, and He that is for us is mightier than all they that are against us.

The Relief Committee.

By SAC. GEO. M. WARD.

To a greater extent, perhaps, than any other, the Relief Committee must depend upon and be governed by local needs and circumstances. It is designed to make this committee, a means of interesting the young people in the missionary work at their own doors. To teach them that the poor and sick about them are a charge upon them, which it is their duty to attend to. This work varies almost as widely as the cases arising which need attention. In some instances the Relief Committee have visited the hospitals, and provided fruit and flowers for the many unfortunate found there. In one instance, one of the wards of the hospital was taken charge of, to the extent of providing for the invalids some means of making their weary hours pass more pleasantly. This was accomplished by providing reading matter, and in some instances, readers, for the older of the sick ones, and toys and simple games for the little ones.

One Relief Committee makes a business of begging from friends jars of jellies, and any article of like character which is fit for the sick-room, and which will tempt an invalid's appetite. These are carefully stored away, and are used when required in cases of need, whose existence is learned through the committee's own efforts, or the assistance of friends in the work.

Still another committee bearing this name makes a business of collecting from its friends all the religious newspapers which can be obtained, and in circulating them in families where, either from lack of funds or lack of interest, no religious paper is taken.

In one of our New England towns the work is laid out by districts, and each district is assigned to some mem-

ber of the committee. Once during each week each district is reported from, and all cases of need are made known to the full committee, thereby lessening the chances for imposition. By many Relief Committees the work of Mission Sunday schools is undertaken, the school being placed wholly in charge of this committee, or else bearing the same relation to it that the home school bears to the Sunday School Committee. In fine, the duties of this committee may be extended to any degree that occasion requires, or opportunity offers. Its aim is to train the young people of the society with which it is connected, to realize that *practical* Christianity is what is expected of all who bear the Lord's name, who belong to His church, and who acknowledge allegiance to His service. To teach them that, like their great Master, they are to go about doing good—relieving suffering, caring for the needy, and presenting the blessed truths of the gospel to the poor about them. In a word, that they are to *live* as well as profess *Christ-like* lives.

In many societies, the duties which might naturally fall to the lot of the Relief Committee are distinctly provided for, in the duties of the "Sick" Committee, the "Flower" Committee, or the Sunday school. In such cases the necessity for a distinct committee of this character is of course obviated, but in the highest and truest sense of Christian Endeavor, no society is complete in its workings which has not in fact, if not in name, a Relief Committee.

The White Cross Committee.

By REV. F. E. CLARK.

The "White Cross" movement, even in England, where it originated, is of very recent growth, much younger is it, even, than the Society of Christian Endeavor. In comparatively few societies as yet, perhaps, has this beneficent effort for the promotion of social purity found a foothold but, more and more, we believe, is it destined to take its place among the other committees, and to do a work no less important.

Unlike the other committees, this one must be composed wholly of young men, as the work it contemplates is for young men. It is intimated by the leaders in this movement that before long a branch of it will extend to the young women as well. In case this result is reached, it will be necessary, practically, to have two committees—one of young men to work among young men; the other of young women to do the same for the other sex. This committee must do its work quietly and judiciously, and with individuals. Little need be said about it in public, but it may be none the less effective. Every young man and boy in the society, and so far as possible outside, over fourteen years of age, should be approached, and should have the White Cross pledge presented to him. This pledge reads as follows:

THE WHITE CROSS OBLIGATIONS.

- I. To treat all women with respect, and endeavor to protect them from wrong and degradation.
- II. To endeavor to put down all indecent language and coarse jests.
- III. To maintain the law of purity as equally binding upon men and women.
- IV. To endeavor to spread these principles among my companions, and try to help my younger brothers.

V. To use all possible means to fulfil the command

"KEEP THYSELF PURE."

I promise, by the help of God, to conform to the above obligations.

Name.....

Residence.....

MOTTO:—"My strength is as the strength of ten because my heart is pure."

Each one keeps the pledge-card he has thus signed, as a reminder of his promise, while the names should be recorded in a little book kept by this committee especially for this purpose. White Cross literature can be obtained in the form of attractive little tracts, and should be distributed as widely as the funds at disposal of this committee will allow, while every suitable and kindly effort should be made to insure adherence to the White Cross vows. The literature of this subject can be obtained at the rooms of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, La Salle Street, Chicago, at a small cost.

It seems to us that it is well that this committee should be a permanent committee, and should be excused from making the required monthly report, except when they desire thus to report.

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